

03500.017990



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
YOSHIHIRO ISHIBE)
Application No.: 10/802,856)
Filed: March 18, 2004)
For: MULTI-BEAM OPTICAL)
SCANNING DEVICE : April 20, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document so listed is enclosed. Copies of U.S. patent documents are not enclosed, pursuant to the Notice published in the Official Gazette dated August 5, 2003.

U.S. Patent 5,859,720
U.S. Patent 5,995,131
U.S. Patent 6,067,106
U.S. Patent 6,133,935
U.S. Patent 6,256,132
U.S. Patent 6,317,244
U.S. Patent 6,362,470
U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0063910
U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0163703
U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0001944
Japan 5-333281
Japan 9-197308

Applicants also respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/774,125 filed January 31, 2001 by Yoshihiro Ishibe (Atty. Docket No. 03500.015080) which has been assigned in common with the present application. A copy of this co-pending application is also enclosed

It is Applicants' belief that Japanese priority applications for the above U.S. application may have been published before the filing date of the subject application, making the Japanese publications themselves available as prior art under at least § 102(a).

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

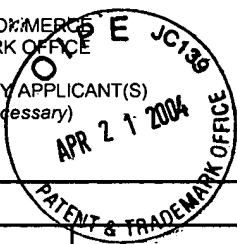
Respectfully submitted,


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|---|--|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017990 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/802,856 | | |
|  | | | APPLICANT Yoshihiro Ishibe | | | | |
| | | | FILING DATE March 18, 2004 | | | GROUP Unknown | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 5,859,720 | 1/12/99 | Ishibe | 359 | 196 | |
| | | 5,995,131 | 11/30/99 | Fujibayashi, et al | 347 | 258 | |
| | | 6,067,106 | 5/23/00 | Ishibe, et al | 347 | 258 | |
| | | 6,133,935 | 10/17/00 | Fujibayashi, et al | 347 | 258 | |
| | | 6,256,132 | 7/3/01 | Ishibe | 359 | 204 | |
| | | 6,317,244 | 11/13/01 | Ishibe | 359 | 204 | |
| | | 6,362,470 | 3/26/02 | Yoshida, et al | 250 | 235 | |
| | | 2002/63910 | 5/30/02 | Ishibe | 358 | 514 | |
| | | 2002/163703 | 11/7/02 | Ishibe | 359 | 204 | |
| | | 2003/1944 | 1/2/03 | Yoshida, et al | 347 | 241 | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 5-333281 | 12/17/93 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 9-197308 | 7/31/97 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy, form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1